

## Testimony on House Bill 5408

Dear Legislators:

We are very concerned with the taking down of trees without property owner consent. We ask that you consider the recommendations developed by the Hamden Alliance for Trees in any tree trimming bill, as follows:

1. Provision of biannual review and evaluation of tree trimming plan, including public comment, to allow for adjustments as needed
2. Requirement that utilities to obtain written consent from property owners for removal of trees on private property
3. Full provision of definitions of what is a hazardous tree and require each tree to be assessed by utilizing the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) *Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form* or similar industry-wide system. (see attached PDF)
4. Requirement that utilities to plant a replacement tree for every tree removed
5. Requirement utilities to grind stumps of removed trees
6. Requirement that utilities provide a direct phone line to a customer service representative assigned to handle questions on (and/or objections to) tree trimming and removal
7. Requirement of a performance bond to provide greater accountability of tree service contractors
8. Provision to Allow a Town or municipalities Tree Warden to have final say to a trees fate, based not only on potential hazards, but also to the importance of or historical presence of any given tree in any given neighborhood.

Thank you,

*Judy Clark*  
*888 Ridge Road*  
*Hamden, CT 06517*